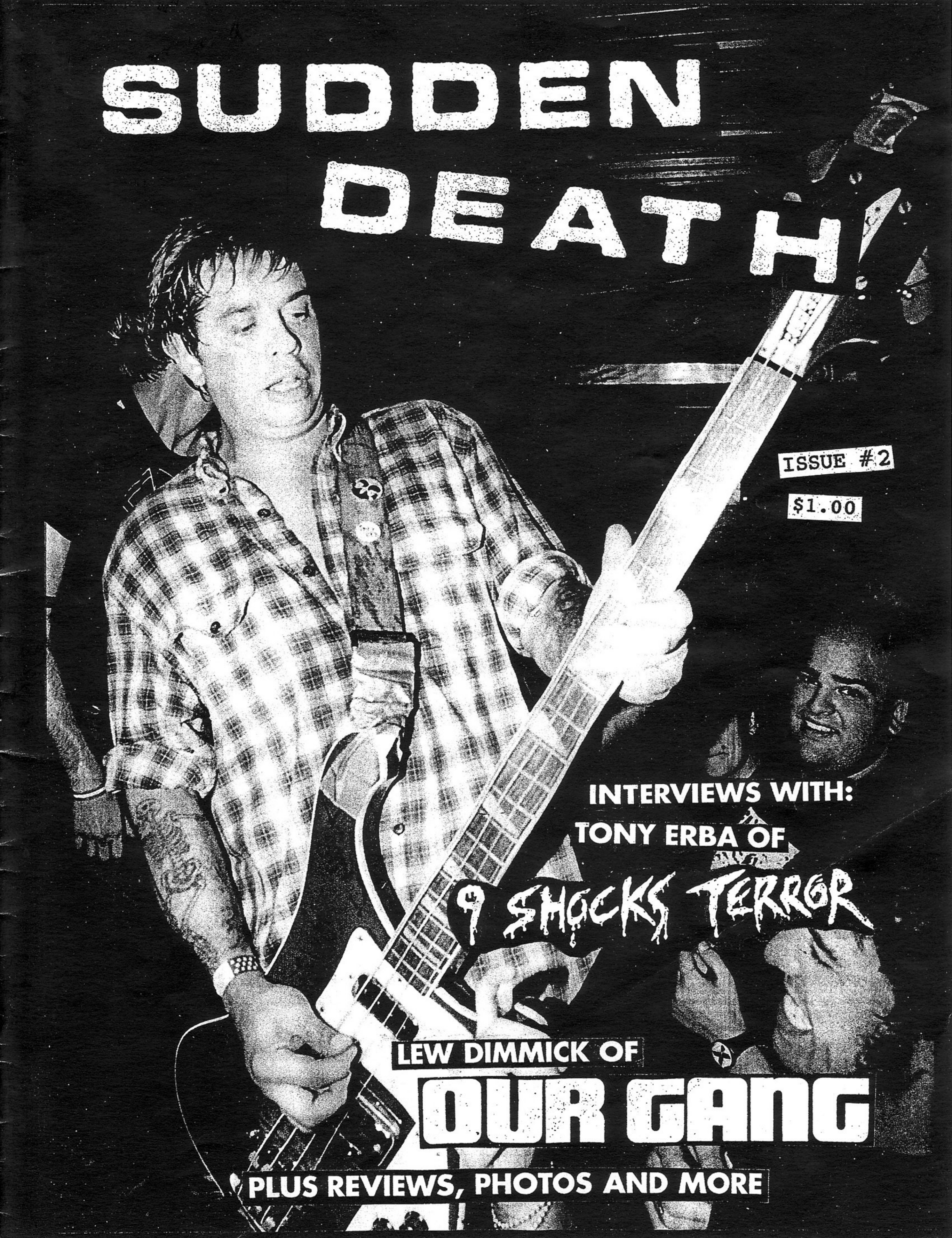


SUDDEN DEATH!



ISSUE #2

\$1.00

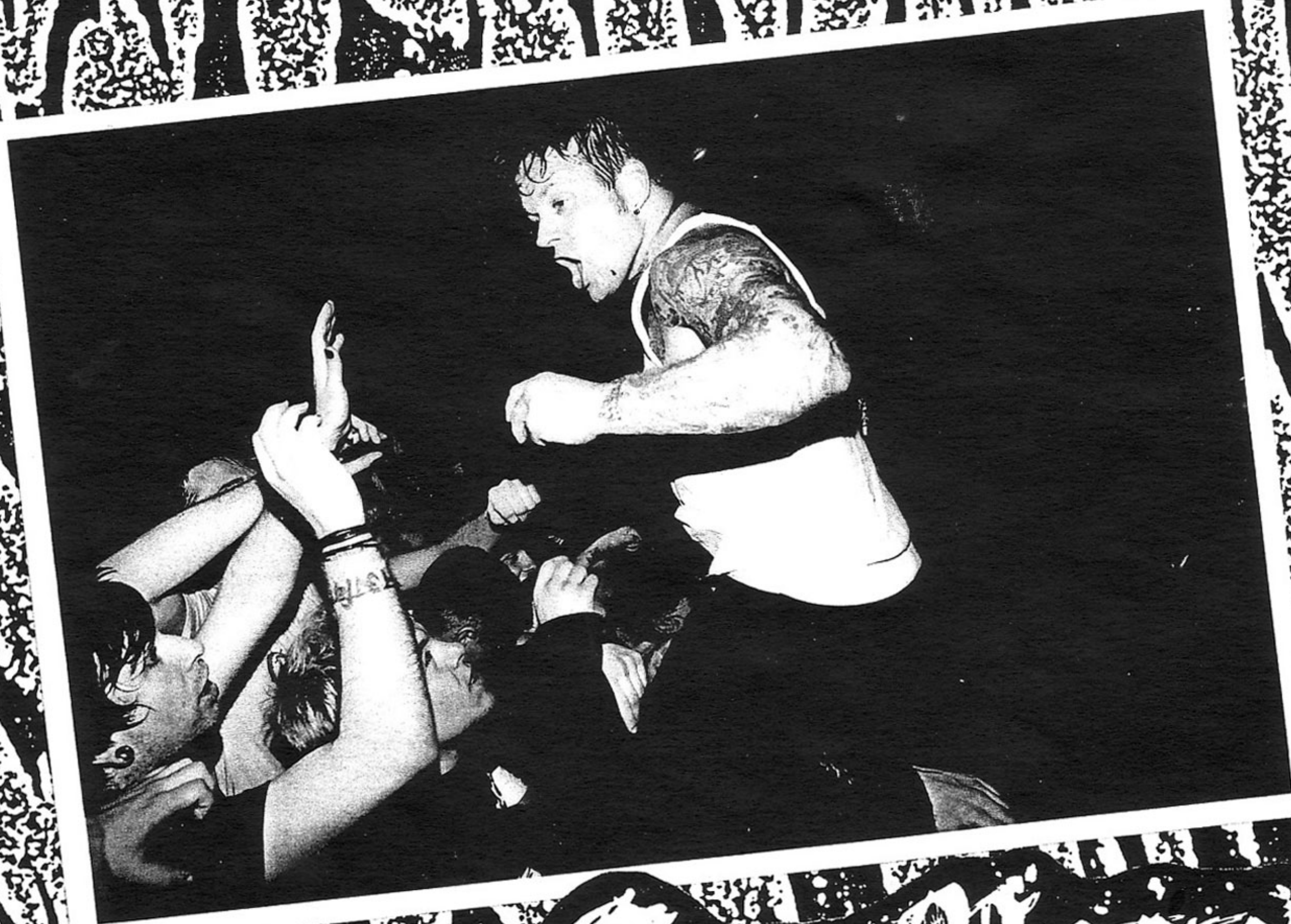
INTERVIEWS WITH:
TONY ERBA OF

9 SHOCKS TERROR

LEW DIMMICK OF

OUR GANG

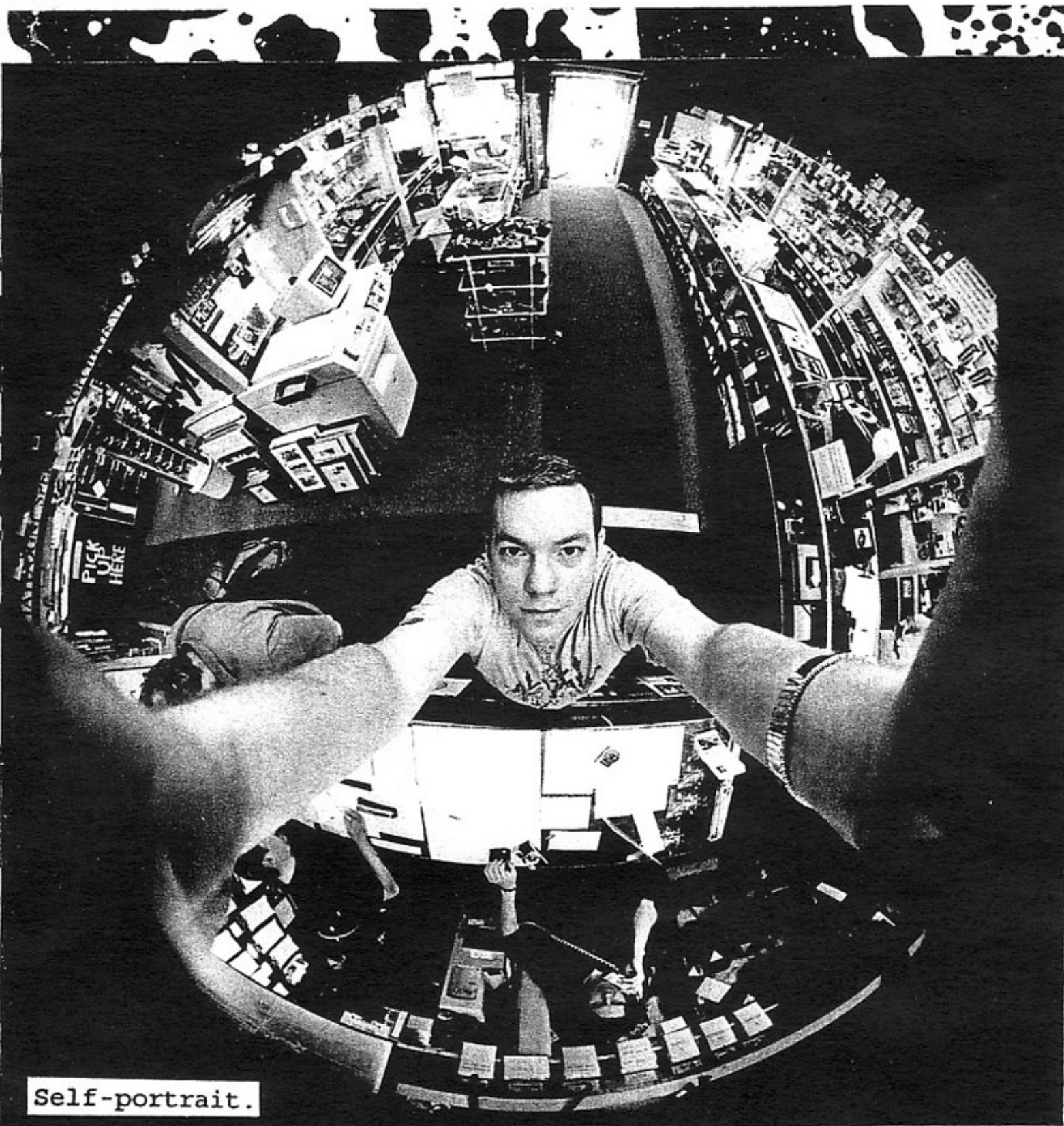
PLUS REVIEWS, PHOTOS AND MORE



Crucifixion



So here it is, Sudden Death numbah two - only 14 months in the making! I wanted to put this together last summer, then last December... but I was lacking on content and motivation. So why now, you ask? Well first off, I found two people I actually wanted to interview. Second, some friends of mine are doing this big zine consortium thing, and asked me to contribute. I guess that's as good a reason as any. Anyhoo, I thought it would be fun to interview Tony Erba, but not about his bands. Everyone and their mom knows how he plays in these "crazy" bands, so I figured I'd skip that junk and get to the real dirt - quite a colorful character to say the least. A for the Our Gang interview... I've been neck deep in tape trading lately, and one of my favorite "demo only" New York hardcore bands is Our Gang. Fast and abrasive, unlike the countless mosh bands that were emerging at the time. One day I got an email out of the blue from Our Gang's guitarist Lew Dimmick, about trading some tapes. "Perfect", I thought, I should see what this guy's been up to for the last 15 years. As usual, I took all the photos and did all the assembly. Read on.



Self-portrait.

Playlist for the construction of this issue:

Poison Idea - all
The Pagans "Shit Street" lp
A-Team - new 7" recording
Underdog - demos + NYU set
Discharge "Why" lp + singles
Calvary "Outnumbered Is Outflanked" lp

TOP 10 for 2003

1. Sweet new apartment
2. Free March rent on #1
3. Painkiller Records
4. 74 Ashford come springtime
5. A-Team new 7" out soon on #3
6. My birthday (March 27)
7. Forward US tour (June)
8. Tomorrow US tour (July)
9. stuff...
10. more stuff...

Send hate mail/love notes to:

Chris Minicucci
63 Brewster Ave, Apt B
Winthrop, MA 02152 USA
intro_bust@hotmail.com

FRONT COVER: ERBA

BACK COVER: SUPER SWANK!

After the last issue someone asked me why there was no "opinion page", since I must be a person who has lots of them. Yeah, I do have plenty - there are a ton of things I like and dislike. But, I don't really feel like airing them out in print. This zine is about hardcore, so you can probably figure out everything you need to know about what goes on inside my head by reading the record reviews and interviews. I get fed up reading what most stupid people have to say in zines and online, I won't get caught up in that cycle? Oh well, I guess that was an easy copout! Cut and paste still rules!



SLAP
SHOT

PARMA'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE:

TONY ERBA



Interview conducted over instant messenger over various dates in 2002. Not for the politically correct or easily offended! Email clevoripper@yahoo.com for more dirt.

CHRIS: Yo dude.

TONY: What up Masshole? This is the first time I've ever IM'd. I'm being dragged, kicking and screaming, into the computer age! I can produce a nice looking document on Photoshop though! What the shit?!?

CHRIS: Yeah this internet thing is a big higher tech than your SVT gear.

TONY: Don't besmirch the Ampeg!

CHRIS: You don't have to tell me, its the only gear I use!

TONY: Yes, it's a beautiful thing, innit it? Hey are you in Boston or Western mass now?

CHRIS: Boston.

TONY: Well fuck Belichick, what a miserable game yesterday. Terry Glenn can eat a goat's ass!

CHRIS: I haven't payed attention to the Bruins in ages... How's the cable industry treating you:?

TONY: I worked in some lady's house the other day as her retarded blind dog kept walkin into shit, and her kid dumped a whole fuckin glass of milk on my head!

CHRIS: Haha! So Stepsister broke up?

TONY: Yeah, new band coming soon... Grand Flunk Male Load.

CHRIS: Haha... great.

TONY: We picked up a Red Bull sponsorship too!

CHRIS: Haha, for real?

TONY: Yes and it means absolutely nothing, except a hot chick drives around in a Sidekick that has a huge Red Bull can jutting from the back and she promotes our shows.

CHRIS: That's still cool. No free goods though?

TONY: I don't know, maybe free crabs from the chick...

CHRIS: So for the uninformed out there, who's the new drummer in Nine Shocks?

TONY: My best friend plays drums, Jim Konya. He was in my first band LEK from '86-'88, fastest band EVER in Cleveland, total Cryptic Slaughter! He's a fucking freak, total SXE too for like 15 years now! You should check out his other bands Nunslaughter, Minch and Schnauzer. Total retard-metal!

CHRIS: Nunslaughter are hilarious! I saw them once with PTL Klub and the singer threw bones into the crowd!

TONY: The singers cool, anyone who calls himself "Don Of The Dead" is alright by me! The Hangnail Lp that Konya plays drums on destroys, Schnauzer is unlistenable but live they're hilarious. They have kids lifting wieghts on stage, destroyng couches and shit.

CHRIS: Haha.

TONY: Konya's one of a kind, he was the drummer in Mission Of Parma.



TONY: Speaking of M.O.P, how about those Burma reunions?

CHRIS: Total ripoff - tickets were 25 fucking dollars! It was a great show though, two sets worth of classics.

TONY: Does Roger Miller still have to wear that headphone deal?

CHRIS: Yeah, he had to wear those and play behind his amp. Plus they had a plexiglass shield around the drums. Peter Prescott looked like the god damn Pope behind that thing!

TONY: Thats fucked! Meanwhile the Lem keeps on keepin' on!

CHRIS: Haha, yup! I saw Motorhead a couple years ago with Glucifer and Nashville Pussy and they were still smokin'.

TONY: Gluecifer rock!

CHRIS: How is your eye after Havoc Fest last year?

TONY: Oh its fine, it took forever to heal but no trouble.

CHRIS: Stuart still thinks it was his fault... he was pretty bummed.

TONY: Cool, let him think that. I can hold it over his head when I'm in Jersey and need a place to crash with some rock slut I just picked up at L'Amours!

CHRIS: Haha!

TONY: I love those NJ guys, I think they have no idea what to make of me. I love it, just when they think they know the answers, I change the questions! Gotta keep that ol' mystique up, dig?

CHRIS: Is L'Amours even still open?

TONY: I dunno, ask Type O Negative! "I know you're fuckin someone else!"

CHRIS: Haha you like that shit? Fuck Type O, Carnivore is where it's at!

TONY: Oh yeah, completely idiotic. Although I like how in interviews he was always talking about how he loved his job driving a bulldozer and paving over city parks. Carnivore were great though - "Thermonuclear Warfare"!

CHRIS: What about the last GSMF show? You took a good beating at that one...

TONY: If I wasn't having a diabetic insulin deal, that show would've been over the top! That's why I was dragging ass, I wish i could've played harder.

CHRIS: I thought you died when the dude from WHN? jumped on you!

TONY: I sold it like a mufucker, haha! I swerved y'all!

TONY: Are you still SXE?

CHRIS: Yeah, why?

TONY: I went edge again before in August, kind of rejuvenetd again you know?

CHRIS: That's great. I listened to Face Value the other day if that helps...

TONY: Too bad modern SXE is so commercialised and tuff guy vibes. I miss Uniform Choice! I recently saw Ringworm, it was all windbreakers, fat bald kids and glares.

FACE VALUE



CHRIS: Yeah me and some friends saw the 'Worm in WMass a while back, they were good.

TONY: Frank and James are bro's from way back, good guys.

CHRIS: James was real nice to us, we all hung out after the show...

CHRIS: Which leads nicely into my next question - what do you think about Integrity being back together?

TONY: Integrity is the biggest piece of wool ever to be pulled over the eyes of HC, straight up. They have NO original guys except for Chunky Flesh and Dwid. Fuck Dwid, I'll bust him out! He's a tough guy, you know? Beats up girls taking photos, and cripples. Then again fuck cripples! Face Value played with Show Of Force, Integrity and Outburst in November '89 in Albany, he beat a girl in the street for no reason. She was drunk, oooooohh tough guy. I just hate that guy! For chrissakes I just saw him at a club and he had on a fucking feather boa and a Van Halen half shirt! He is Andrew WK! I'll stab him in his sleep!

CHRIS: What was the deal with him bootlegging the unreleased Guns lp?



TONY: He tried once again to screw over the Guns. He sold that recording to some dude in Holland, trying to rip off the drummer in Stepsister who was the singer/guitarist in the Guns. Typical Dwid. I had to call this asshole long distance on his commie-ass island and let him know the score. Dwid dosen't have any claim to that recording, that's why he sneakily tacked the greatest HC band from Cleveland ever onto that disgraceful Bowel CD.

CHRIS: Yeah what is the deal with that? Is there a legit Guns cd coming out any time soon?



Lemmy Jr. mows 'em down.

TONY: David Araca, who was Tom and Scott's best friend (they are brothers and sing and drum in Stepsister), was cajoled by Dwid into letting him have a LONE TRACK for a comp, then of course he gets his hands on the reels and it's off to the races! What an asshole, he puts it on the Bowel cd because Brummel was like, "This thing is only 17 minutes long". Of course none of the other members had any clue. Araca was a great guy, but he was pressured by Dwid and just gave up the shit that the other members had no say-so in. As for the Guns Cd, it's coming out eventually on Grand Theft Audio, I did the liner notes. So is Tom's old band The Dark - fantastic shit, the first speedy, youth-oriented HC band in Cleveland, recorded '83. This shit will blow your mind, waaaaay ahead of its time! Some parts have an almost Samhain touch to it but it never strays from blistering HC.

CHRIS: Yeah, I have the "They Pelted Us With Rocks And Garbage" and "New Hope" comp lps, that stuff is great.

CHRIS: What about this story I heard of Dwid hiding a severed human ear under your pillow?

TONY: That's funny that people still tell all these old Cleveland stories. That one's a good one, though. Actually what REALLY happened was he and some others went to the morgue and supposedly had an ear, no one could really tell what it was though. It just looked like a piece of flesh wrapped in a cellophane sandwich bag. Anyhow I was sleeping and I heard something in my room. It was Dwid, and he and this other kid were fuckin around near my bed, I think he was trying to put it under my pillow. I was totally crashed but I was used to his antics so I was always kinda on guard for shenanigans, anyhow I just woke up and yelled something like "Get the fuck outta here assholes!" and they ran giggling like school girls out of my bedroom, and that's pretty much the whole story. I think they tacked it on another of our roommate's door, if I remember correctly. What morons.

CHRIS: Haha.

TONY: You want more?

CHRIS: Of course!

TONY: Howzabout Dwid getting crabs from a certain well-known Cleveland techno DJ (a male)? It's true. Or what about when Dwid lipped off to some club kid and tried to shock him with a stun gun, which failed to work, resulting in Dwid getting his face rearranged? Then there's my favorite, which is the time Dwid got into a skirmish with some "gangsta" brothers at our hangout on Coventry Road and then returned home proclaiming himself a racist and smashing all of his rap LPs in the middle of the street! Seeing this raving asshole in the middle of Hampshire Blvd. jumping up and down on his Kid'N'Play and Kwame records was fucking priceless! You can forward this to the Rev board, I'm sure kids will come in thier pants to hear yet another retarded Clevo story....

CHRIS: Do you ever read the Rev board?

TONY: Well sure, I'll check out any thing like that but you have to understand that I'm kind of out of the loop in terms of HC, you know? I'm really diggin' the rock these days, but I'll always be a HC kid and hopefully stay straight too. I fucking hate drinking, I'M BRINGING IT BAAAAAACK!!

TONY: So what happens on the Revboard? Do I log on and watch kids tear each other down? Too much negativity in my life already. I like to remember HC the way it was in the Value days - good times, happy kids, hot SXE girlys down for the count. Now I'm a fat bitter fuck!

CHRIS: Yeah but the general public could use your colorful views on hardcore...

TONY: OK, so you want some opinions on HC? Here's one: Toxic Reasons - an insanely kick-ass band, could piss all over todays core, saw them with Raw Power, boy could they rule! Do yourself a favour and get "Kill By Remote Control" immediately.

CHRIS: Got it already...

TONY: Good. "Ghost Town" is great too, that had the first singer. "War Hero", what an awesome tune! Do you love Körö or what? That's the goods right there.

CHRIS: Yeah Körö is great, but I need the 7"!

TONY: Well if you beat my copy out of the pig from Violent Society, you can have it. Just float me my Bags single back.



h1005

CHRIS: That sucks, did those guys really steal your records?

TONY: Yes! Revenge, revenge is mine Frosty!

CHRIS: Frosty from Chain Of Strength? What the hell does he have to do with this?

TONY: It's an old Clevo in-joke. Dwid hated that guy for no reason, soon kids were cracking on each other callin' each other "Frosty".

CHRIS: Anything else?

TONY: I love Snooky Tate!

CHRIS: Haha, yes!

TONY: "Don't you spit on me, you honky tonk, you dirty turd!!!"

CHRIS: Haha, great stuff! I was just listening to that the other day...

CHRIS: OK, so more talk about old Cleveland bands...

TONY: Tom's band The Dark was managed by Mike Hudson from the Pagans, you should talk to him. Tom was there as a 13 year old in '79, he'll tell you stories you won't beleive! I came late around '85, I was second generation. The original Cleveland hardcore greats were The Dark, The Guns, The Offbeats, Civilian Terrorists, The Plague. The Plague were scary, bad, mean kids, they put out a split with Rovsett of all bands!

CHRIS: I have the Plague lp, it's great.

TONY: The single "Just Say No" RULES, it DESTROYS the "Chainsawng Massacre" LP!

CHRIS: What about the Pagans?

TONY: Stepsister actually played with them once. They were terrible, it was only Mike Hudson (singer) and Mike Metoff (guitar). They were drunk, couldn't stand up. I hate it when your heroes let you down!

CHRIS: I could use a "Six & Change" single, got one of those for me?

TONY: "Six & Change" is OK, the best stuff is "Street Where Nobody Lives" and "Not Now No Way", timeless classics!

CHRIS: "Not Now" is my favorite by them. Doesnt Wedge live on the actual "Street Where Nobody Lives"?

TONY: I don't know it that's the "street where nobody lives", but the street where Wedge lives gets dark REAL quick if you catch my drift.



CHRIS: Did you read that American Hardcore book? They skipped right over Cleveland...

TONY: What's the scoop on that book? Al Quint sent me an email, I thought he was going to soil himself over it! He's pretty pissed off about it.

CHRIS: It's cool, but the author is a tool. He says a lot of dumb shit. The commentary from the scene people is great though.

TONY: John Brannon stayed here a while ago, he told me that he never said any of those quotes in this book.

CHRIS: Really?

TONY: That's what he said, of course he was pretty loaded at the time. Easy Action rocks hard! The bassist is a knob, the drummer's from Cleveland though, an old friend of mine.

TONY: Do you love the first Sons Of Ismael record?

CHRIS: Hayseed Hardcore?

TONY: Yes! Hayseed kills every seven inch ever!

CHRIS: Yeah that record rips!

TONY: Are you hip to Sado-Nation?

CHRIS: Yes, I have the 7" and love it. I don't have the lp though.

TONY: The 12" destroys!

CHRIS: In the American Hardcore book, the author refers to the girl singer from Sado-Nation as a "foul-mouthed little bitch"!

TONY: She was! A little chubby, mean, evil, bad news. A real woman in my book!

CHRIS: OK, so what about more recent stuff?

TONY: Well, I must confess to loving early Shelter...

CHRIS: Oh man!

TONY: Face Value played their first Connecticut show in '91 and it was awesome. They had a fuckin vegetarian spread backstage that could of fed the army for a month.

CHRIS: Was that when they still had the 76% dudes in the band?

TONY: Naw, they had Porcell on guitar and the 76% guy on bass, with Sammy on drums. They played the Sabbath cover "After Forever". Don't cover a Sab song when Cleveland scum is in the house, you'll get ruled on in the pit! We were schoolin' kids from CT!



CHRIS: Haha sweet, I hate CT.

TONY: Yes it's quite the shithole. Either they're cliquey, dumbass rich SXE kids who don't realize '88 came and went, or they're goomba macho fucks in that ghetto New Haven.

CHRIS: Speaking of New Haven, what about the H100's show at the Tune Inn?

TONY: That was hilarious, they were NOT into us! Fuck Fernando Pinto!

CHRIS: Did you guys ever get revenge on the club, as promised on the back of the Dismantle 7"?

TONY: No. But as for that fat fuck owner, I'll fuckin buy him a burrito and fuckin punch him in the stomach and watch the burrito fly out of his mouth, then I'll play some bass licks on his GRAVE!

CHRIS: HAHA! Any other good H100's stories?

TONY: At the first show, I jumped off the stage to fight some kid and my chain wallet gets hooked on Wedge's cymbal stand and gets destroyed. Hillarious, that place was of course ruined. Wasn't I just talking about being positive? I'm a total contradiction i guess!

CHRIS: Where was that?

TONY: The Gallery Cafe, Euclid, OH. East side 'burb. This kid got a news paper vending machine thrown on him!

CHRIS: Ouch!

TONY: Did you ever see the pictorial where I bribed my brother into going to Glamour Shots and gettin all dolled up like a chick?

CHRIS: Haha, no.

TONY: Oh dude its unreal, he does a centerfold like in Playboy and he signs it, "You can light my H-100 baby!!" He has a red dress on, full makeup and cocksucker lipstick!

CHRIS: And this is printed somewhere?

TONY: Yeah it was in Bloodbook.

CHRIS: Which one?

TONY: Its the one with the Kids Of Widney high single.

CHRIS: I dont have that one, just the ones with the Integrity and Ringworm 7"s.

TONY: My dad saw it lying in his abandoned car and freaked! He's old school guinea, not down with our shenanigans.

CHRIS: Sounds like my dad!

TONY: Oh, and speaking of that new hardcore book, I'm writing a book about my own life and experiences in the underground music culture.

CHRIS: Haha, just what the world needs to read...

TONY: It's actually happening, it'll be funny as hell! I'll throw a lot of retarded wrasslin' shit and conspiracies too. It'll be all over the map, with my distinct style of run-on sentence, stream of consciousness bullshit. Shit like "Top Ten Names Of Cars That I Would Name My Mulatto Kid After". Lots of material from my old columns in US Rocker and Free Times. Al Quint would never print my column, too offensive. Not like in an Answer This "I just set race relations back twenty years" kind of way, but still offensive...

CHRIS: Haha, sounds great.

TONY: In case you're curious, number one was "Diamante".

=====

Talk degenerates into sex, playing golf, Tony's fixation with Kim Possible, and more obscure Ohio punk. Then my computer crashed and I lost the rest of the conversation...

Poison Idea



AMDI PETERSENS ARMÉ



STRIKING DISTANCE

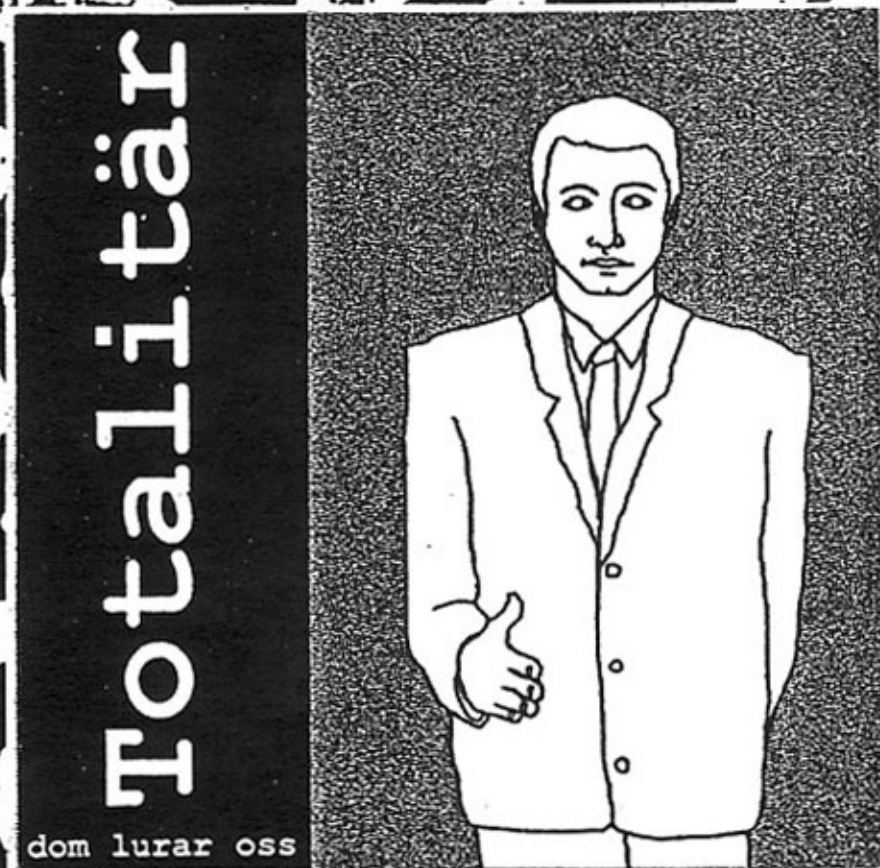
RECORD REVIEWS

Most reviews by me, guest reviews by the Controversial Critic (CC). I didn't supply contact addresses but 90% of this stuff is available from either www.deadalive.com or www.hardcoreholocaust.com if it's still in print. If not, go and find it on your own. That's what I did.

TOTALITÄR

"Dom Lurar Oss" 7"
(1000 dB)

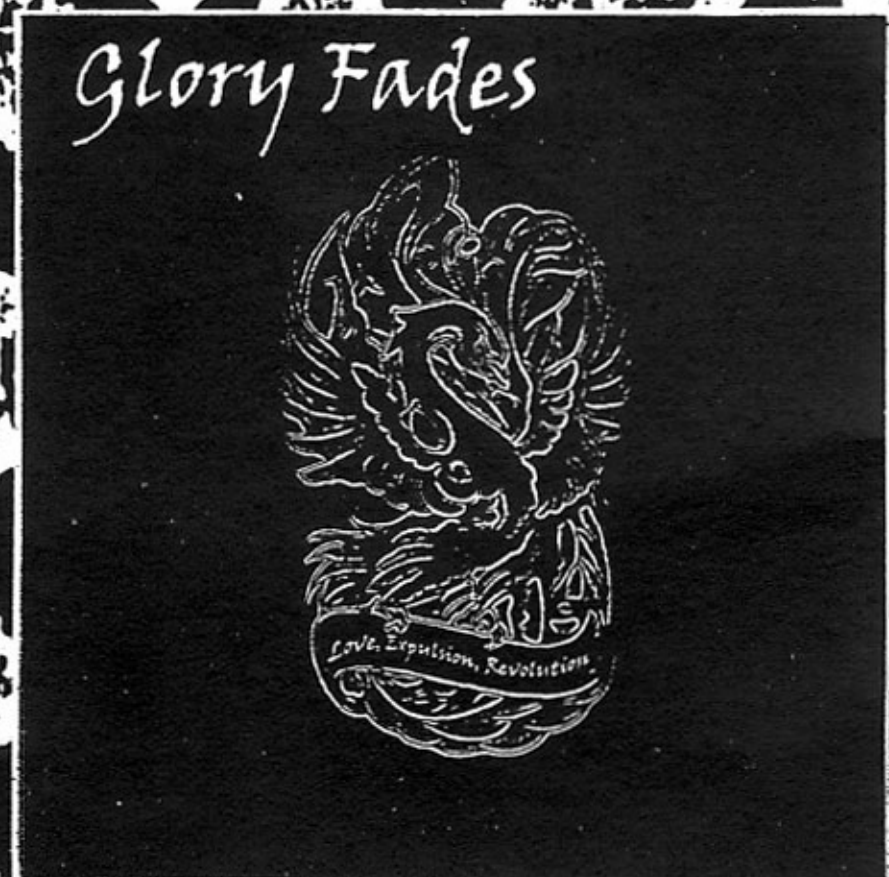
Another installment of from these Swedish HC hermits who probably have more records out than live shows played at this point. The first five songs are the typical d-beat fare for these guys, but the last song is the standout - a great anthemic sounding mid-tempo rocker. I only wish I knew Swedish so I could sing along.



GLORY FADES

"Love Expulsion Revolution" ep
(One Leaf)

Posthumous release from this short-lived Boston band. Musical nods to bands like DAG NASTY and VERBAL ASSAULT but with a more speedy approach (they're not afraid to throw in a blast beat here and there). Lyrics run back and forth from personal to political, leaning more towards the personal side. Check out the tough guys on the b-side label...



INSURANCE RISK

"No Pity" ep
(My War / Parts Unknown)

Lots of early Boston worship going on here, minus the stolen SSD and DYS riffs from their previous ep. Ten fast rippers, just not quite as catchy as the other record. Oh and no anti-gay songs this time.
(www.mywarrecords.com)

SUICIDE FILE

"Twilight" lp
(Indecision)

A 17 minute 12 incher from Boston's newest "it" band. The rock and roll influences (Rocket From The Crypt, later Bad Religion) have been magnified even more than in the past, but the songs are a reduction of that sound into a more hardcore friendly format in that they're much shorter and the vocals are totally rough (no singing here). The lyrics are really well written although occasionally things do lapse into vagueries. The production is too clean for the sound here, the bass sounds totally wimpy and the guitars could use a little dirtying up, but the songs are undeniably catchy and all around add up to a quite good album. The layout is awful, YUCK! (CC) (Editor's note - this is the only time I will ever say this, but buy this on CD cause the vinyl sounds like poo-poo)

CALL THE POLICE

"World Crashing In" demo

First off, this is REALLY long for a demo. Ten songs to be exact. The kid who got it for me described it as "FROM ASHES RISE meets the AVENGERS" but to me it sounds like the girl from VICE SQUAD singing for a punked-out DEATHREAT. This is decent but it's too long and I lose interest real fast. Features Todd from TRAGEDY for those who care...

D.S.B

"Pure Cultivation" ep
(Partners In Crime)

US vinyl press of a Japanese CD only release. Why they keep pressing three song CD only releases in Japan is a mystery to me. People have been dissing this band's recent output, and I'm wondering why... They're still fast, they're still powerful, and they still write memorable tunes. Sure, it's not the "No Fight No Get" ep, but what is these days?

FRAMTID

"Under The Ashes" LP
(Crust War)

Wow, this is the best lp I have heard out of Japan in a long time! This totally kills their previous 7" on Crust War. Twelve tunes of fast and heavy "crust" ranging from driving D-beat to faster Bastardish sounding tunes. The production is thick and heavy on the bottom end, which is something that a lot of records of this genre lack. The vocals are kind of buried in the mix and have a ton of reverb on them, which gives them a very demonic sound. And don't forget the vinyl itself, thick as a hockey puck - you could probably knock someone out with this thing!

CAUSTIC CHRIST / INTENSE YOUTH

split 7"

(Behold, The Youthquake!)

Things about this record that suck -

- a) the label name
- b) INTENSE YOUTH's name
- c) INTENSE YOUTH's music
- d) the cover art
- e) the fact that it's a split

Now on to CAUSTIC CHRIST - this band fucking rips, I just wish I could catch them live for once. Ex-members of notable east coast punk bands playing some strong, fast hardcore. Their recording is a bit muddy though, but I can look past that.



LAUKAUS

"Mikä On Tuolla?" ep
(Distort)

Six short blasts of Finnish-inspired hardcore by way of Japan, including Finnish lyrics (I'm assuming, since there's no insert) and sleeve text. Obvious comparisons to Propaganda bands aside, the singer reminds me a lot of Michiro Endo from THE STALIN; enough to say this sounds like an even speedier version of the more hardcore tunes on "Stop Jap".



DEADFALL

"s/t" ep
(Controlled By Plague)

I've been reading rave reviews about this new west coast band, saying that they sound like "URBAN WASTE meets STRAIGHT AHEAD". Well those are some pretty big names to live up to, and unfortunately the only similarity to either band is the poor recording (like UW) and the high speed tunes ala early SA. Other than that I'm not impressed, I may even go so far as to say this sucks. Cool poster sleeve, I guess that counts for something?



LAST IN LINE

"s/t" 7"
(Gloom)

White Male Hard Core, oops, I mean Western Mass Hard Core's biggest retards are back with six tracks of in-your-face hardcore. Don't blink cause you might miss something - the songs are even faster than before, and the songwriting is a bit more technical than the old records. The live shot on the back cover took place at a great show where some girl ran head first into a heating duct, it was pretty funny cause you could see it coming a mile away. Even funnier than that is A-TEAM voxman Jon "Christmas Bear" Clark plugging his ears in disgust on said back cover - I think he may even be crying!

THE STITCHES

"Automatic b/w Electroshock Carol" ep
(Vinyl Dog)

One of the best punk bands in the world is back with a single for their new LP. The A-side reminds me of "We Got The Beat" by the GO-GO's for some reason or another, maybe it's the bass line. The B-side is the typical snot-punk fare you'd expect from these guys, great as usual. Also there's a TKO pressing with a bonus cover of THE CHILD MOLESTERS' "Hillside Strangler", the vocals are real goofy though, sound like a piss-take...

SHITFIT

"Ill Budd" cassette

Eight thrashy originals and a nice cover of the BUZZCOCKS' "Oh Shit!". Lots of extremely spiteful and angry words come out of the singer's mouth, no wonder they call him Shitty Jimmy. Musically this owes a lot to INFEST, lots of fast beats and slow breakdowns. There's a sweet drawing of a vagina inside my tape, it only took me about 2 weeks to notice it.

MENTAL

"And You Know This" ep
(Lockin' Out)

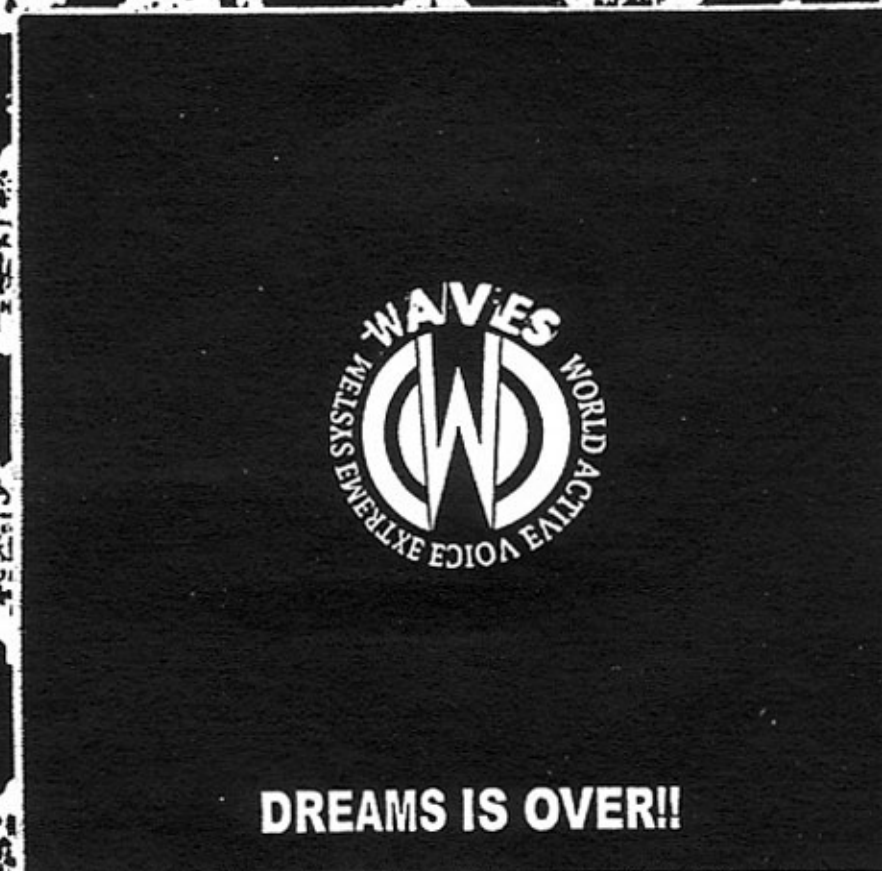
I really want to say something clever about these guys, but I can't think of anything right now. MC Illmont and crew bust through eight moshable anthems about personal turmoil, friendships and how they "might be retarded". I'm pretty sure their drummer really is retarded, and who ever did the layout is DEFINITELY retarded for putting a picture of Chris Morgado on the insert! All kidding aside, this is great straight edge hardcore that will get your toes tappin', and if you catch them live you might even hear one or two of these songs amidst a sea of SUPER-TOUCH and UNDERDOG covers. Sike!



W.A.V.E.S. / HELLBOUND

"Dream Is Over" split CD
(MCR Company)

Ugh, split cd's - a terrible format, right up there with cd-only comps. The 7" sized packaging is really annoying too. Two very catchy WAVES songs, much better than their debut ep in my opinion. Mid tempo and rockin', the vocals are kind of odd but they fit the tunes. Then there's this 10+ minute fantasy metal interlude, I'm guessing it's a HELLBOUND tune? As for HB - fast Scandinavian sounding "crust" from Canada that I'm not really into. This would have been lots cooler as a two song WAVES 7"...



SAY GOODBYE

"Anti-Social" 7"
(Western Front)

Relatively new Massachusetts band doing six fast ones. There's obvious references to early 80s east coast and mid-west hardcore on here, but filtered through some more modern approaches (more mosh parts for one). The vocals kinda remind me of Shark Attack, and lyrically you'll find the singer dealing with his daily frustrations. Reading through the songs I get the feeling he's not a people person. This is a pretty good release and worth checking out if you get the chance. (CC)



ETA E

"Hageshii Inochio" ep
(Cries Of Pain)

Another Japanese CD only ep gets the US vinyl treatment... Four songs of medium to fast traditional-styled Japcore, with LOTS of Maiden-esque guitar leads (almost excessive). Nothing groundbreaking, but they have a pretty thick sound which keeps things interesting.



SELFISH

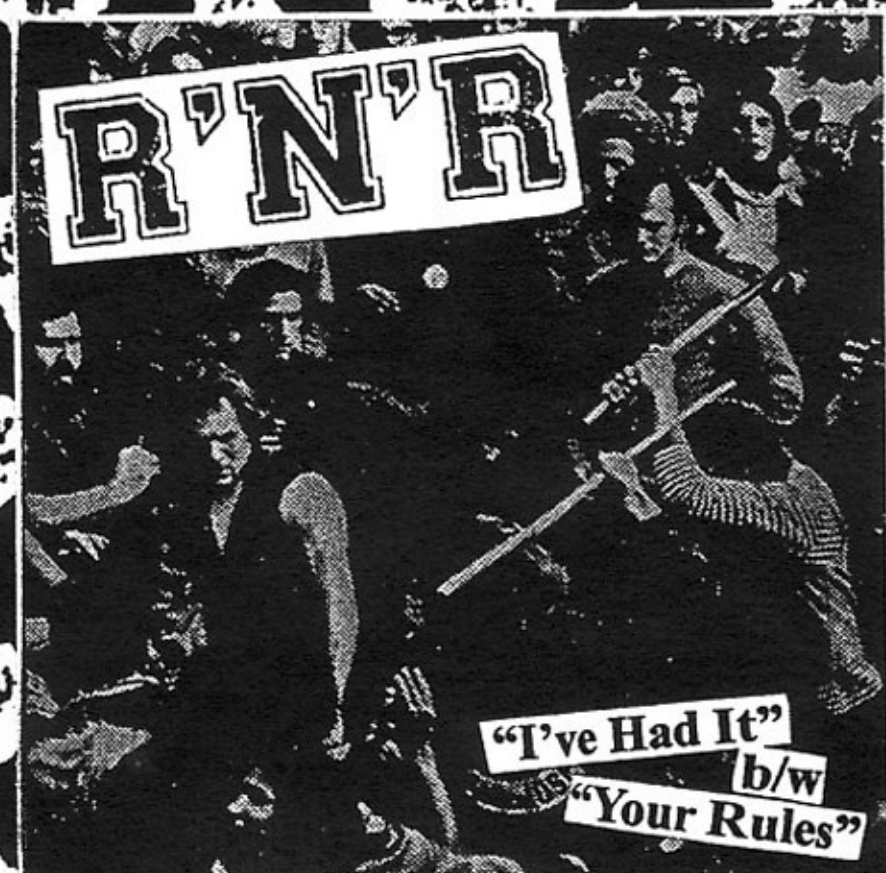
"Cry For Love Cry For Death" lp
(Dead Alive)

Odds and sods collection from everyone's favorite Finnish Japcore band. This compiles a couple ep's, comp tracks and stuff like that summing up the beginnings of their burning spirals phase. While most of the material on here isn't as sharp as the "Burning Sensation" lp, this is a good augmentation to that and there's certainly plenty of choice cuts. I prefer the stuff on the a-side a bit more. Also there's a Deathside cover which fits in perfectly with the rest of the music. Party on. (CC)

R'N'R

"I've Had It b/w Your Rules" 7"
(Dead Alive)

Suprisingly excellent cross-pollination of AC/DC styled rock with DYS/FU's styled hardcore. Totally unleashed vocals rail against getting dealt a shitty hand in life while the band rips through two stomp your feet riff-rock tunes with much of the speed and recklessness of a good hardcore band. Get this at all costs. Highly refreshing and only promising bigger and better things... (CC)



BACTERIA

"s/t" demo
(self released)

Lots of pro-printed demo tapes coming out of Portland these days, must be the new thing up there. Like the CALL THE POLICE demo this is on the long side for a demo, with ten songs. Maybe they are intending for these to be cassette lp's, I don't know. Reminds me of a not BORN DEAD ICONS, but nowhere near as good. The vocals are extremely boring and this just doesn't hold my attention.

VICTIMS

"Neverendinglasting" lp
(Dead Alive)

Well this album has actually been available for a while now on Yellow Dog Records from Germany, but Cooch requested I review it anyway, and since Dead Alive just reissued it, WHY NOT? The only real change here is that the cover is now in very nice full color and I think there might be some minor insert modifications. On to the music... Heavy pummeling, down tuned Scandi-thrash hardcore with rabid off the hook vocals. Pretty sick. A couple songs have a mid-paced vibe including Gate Of Fear which is the standout track of the album. The last three songs are from a different session and aren't quite as good but overall this is a keeper. (CC)

TRAGEDY

"Vengeance" LP
(Tragedy)

First things first, the packaging on this slab is off the hook - a giant book, an insanely heavy cover and a great layout. As for the tuneage - sounds like a more streamlined version of the first lp, the songs are more akin to the style of their recent 7". Less dirge and more raging core, but there are still the occasional instrumentals to break things up a bit. The production is top-notch too, everything sounds LOUD and abrasive. The lyrics are real bleak and paint a pretty depressing picture of the world, even though I think I saw these guys smile for a second after a show once.

IMPACT fanzine

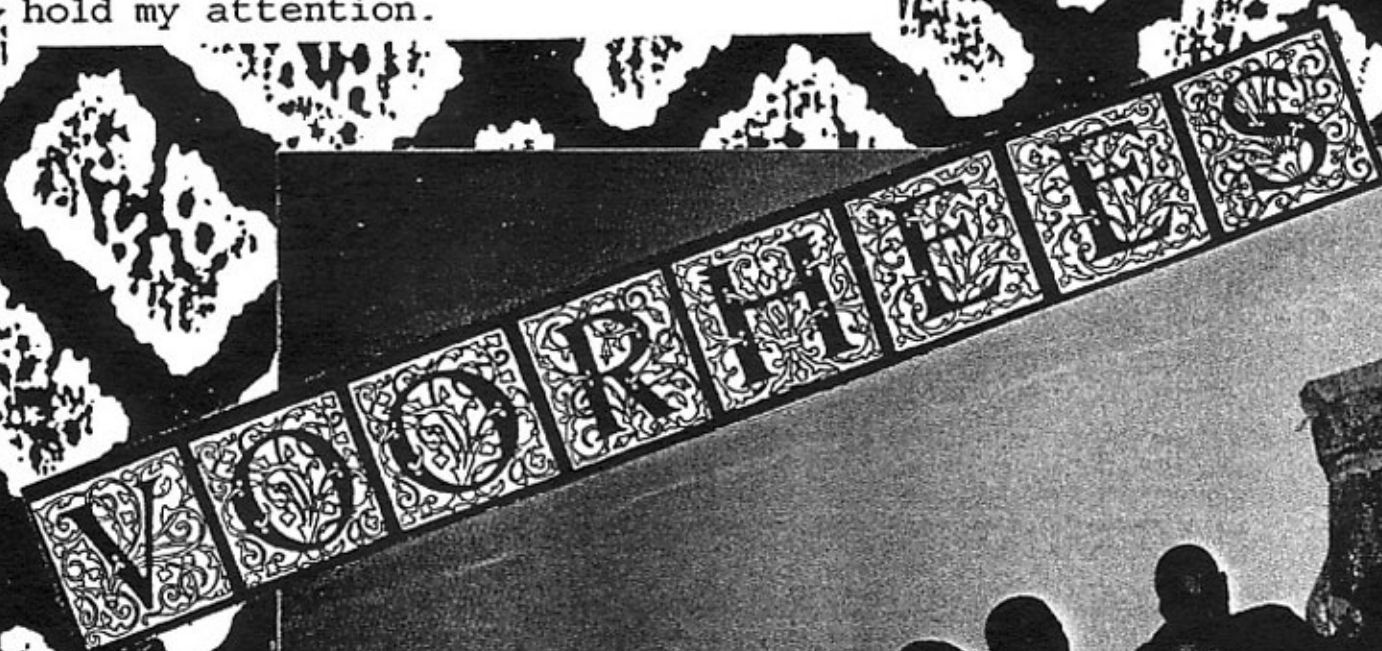
Issue #2

A thick-ass zine dedicated to all things positive. There's a limited version that came with a 7", but I didn't want to plunk down \$10 (!) to find out how much I dislike Matt Bold's new band. Basically this has a lot of interviews with bands I don't really care for (RLT, FACE THE ENEMY, etc) but I bought it to read the Anthrax club retrospective - lots of good pics/flyers and some interesting stories, though it's a little disjointed at times. My only gripe is that there are too many interviews with people who never actually went there, which I find kind of odd. A good read for all lovers of the edge.

TOWN OF HARDCORE fanzine

Issues #1-3

I know some of these are old issues, but I got them all together so you get one big review. A nice cut & paste Canadian zine featuring RNR, FUCKED UP (#1), HAYMAKER, THE NEOS, KNIFE FIGHT (#2), NO WARNING, THINK I CARE and an old PUSZONE reprint (#3). Record/show reviews and photos round out each issue, #'s 1 and 2 have cool articles about old school rap and #3 has a short but sweet piece on obscure action movies. Pretty cool.



LEW DIMMICK OF

OUR GANG

Interview with Our Gang guitarist Lew Dimmick conducted via instant messenger on 2-23-03. Track down a copy of Our Gang's "Uprising" demo or their tracks on the New Breed tape comp for some fast and wild NYHC. Pics and graphics stolen from various old NYHC zines - Right Trash, Give Thanks, In Effect and the New Breed booklet (thanks Rob!).

CHRIS: So typical first question... how'd you get into punk and hardcore?

LEW: Well, Hobi's dad (Hobi was the other Our Gang guitarist) was a record collector, he had tons of records all over the house. We discovered stuff like the DK's and Sex Pistols through him, and that comp called "Rat Music For Rat People" with the Bad Brains.

CHRIS: Was he an old punker?

LEW: In a way.

CHRIS: What year was that?

Lew: That was around 83. We didn't discover NYHC until 85 or 86.

CHRIS: So you started going to CB's and that kind of thing?

LEW: Yeah, I started going when I was 15. I had to use my cousin's birth certificate to get in, Karen from CB's even called my house to make sure I was old enough. My first show was Straight Ahead!

CHRIS: What was it like going to CB's at the time for someone your age?

Lew: It was still pretty quiet. In 87, I'd say, things started getting more crowded. In 88 things got big and out of control. If you listen to Straight Ahead in 86 you hear Tommy asking people to move up - in 88 the bands were begging people not to dive!

CHRIS: So is that right around when Our Gang started?

LEW: Yeah, we started in 87.

CHRIS: So how did Our Gang start? What made you want to start a HC band?

LEW: Hobi and I grew up together and we always listened to music. Starting with metal before punk, and we always wanted to play. We both bought guitars and I would sit in my room figuring out songs by Underdog and Youth Of Today.

CHRIS: Were you really into metal? I know you seem big on NYC Mayhem...

LEW: I loved Maiden, I saw them when I was 14. Then I saw Metallica at L'amour the week later on the "Ride The Lightning" tour! I think NYC Mayhem might have been my first underground demo though, I was 14 or 15.

CHRIS: Was that some pretty crazy stuff at the time?



VOCALS...BRYANT BASS...JAVIER GUITAR...LEWIS

LEW: Very crazy... we listened to that demo all day. I ordered it from Mutilator Magazine, written by Tom Capone.

CHRIS: Cool. I've heard about that mag and always wanted to see it.

LEW: Hobi's dad would make fun of us, mocking the vocals, just shouting and making noise. If they would have come out with a record on Metal Blade, which I think they were supposed to, they would be discussed with albums like "Dealing With It" by DRI and "aAimosity" by COC. I loved fast music, that was my thing.

CHRIS: Yeah I always thought the Our Gang demo was a lot faster than most other NYHC of the time...

LEW: Yeah. We were somewhat unhappy in 87 and 88 with the emergence of so many mosh bands. Growing up, we thought if you palm muted, you weren't hardcore! Things changed A LOT though...

CHRIS: Did you eventually get into that type of stuff? Bands like Raw Deal and Outburst...

LEW: I loved the Raw Deal demo, not Outburst as much... Anthony from Raw Deal was really cool, got us our CB's show, but those bands changed the tone of the scene, it became more tough guy.

CHRIS: What about Breakdown?

LEW: I saw their first show at the Pyramid. Jeff was a cool guy, but again the effect, the rippling effect, was not so good...

CHRIS: So back to Our Gang... what was the deal with the 87 and 88 demos, were those the same songs?

LEW: Yeah, in 88 we added 2 or 3 more songs. The first demo only had one guitar, the second one I took second guitar and we got Javier on bass. We had learned how to tune also so it came out MUCH better!

CHRIS: Was that the dude from Born Against?



LEW: Yeah, Javier (Harv). We actually had a band called Down By Law, a side band with Harv, long before the Dave Smalley one.

CHRIS: What was that all about? Any recordings?

LEW: It was fast hardcore. No recordings, just a few jams. Then we said, fuck this, just be in Our Gang.

UPRISING

CHRIS: So then this 3rd session, what did that produce?

LEW: That was never released. We recorded a new song at the time, "No Motive", a really short NYC Mayhem cover, and just ran through all the songs again. All of our Don Fury sessions were live - we would go in to record a new song and hear how it sounded.

CHRIS: The songs that ended up on the New Breed comp, where were those from?

LEW: In Anger, My Tomorrow, and Without A Home, those were all from the re-recorded Uprising demo, from June 88

CHRIS: Did Our Gang play a lot of shows?

LEW: Not a lot, maybe only a dozen? A few times at the Anthrax, once at the Right Track Inn, CB's once with Slapshot, the Pyramid with Token Entry, the Lismar Lounge with Project X and Life's Blood... We played WNYU, that was my first day of college. Right after class I had to run to the city with my guitar!

CHRIS: You were in True Colors too?

LEW: Yea, that was a side band. We only played one show, with Underdog in Albany. I think it stopped in 89. It seems to me like the scene died that year, or breathed its last breath so to say. Not many band stayed together.

CHRIS: Were you in any other bands at the time?

LEW: Not at that time, though I filled in at a CB's show once for All For One. Hobi also played with them for a while.

CHRIS: What about Collossus?

LEW: Daryl Kahan was in that with Hobi and Pat from Our Gang, and the other guys weren't in other bands. Total metal stuff.

CHRIS: How did you end up on the New Breed comp?

LEW: I was good friends with Freddy Alva... he used to make me tapes. He did a zine called New Breed. He reviewed the Our Gang demo and said it was good, sounded like straight ahead, but the songs sounded all the same after the first three. I think I called him to talk about the review, or wrote him, and we became friends.

CHRIS: Was there a lot of camaraderie between the bands on the comp? It seems pretty localized... or did he just get whoever wanted to be on it? Seems like there is this common thread of mostly "smaller" bands on the comp.

LEW: Obviously Freddy just picked who he wanted, he wanted to expose some newer bands. I was definitely friendly with a lot of the people from the scene at the time in those bands. True Colors were my close friends, I was friends with some of Fit Of Anger and Life's Blood... I nodded to a lot of people every week.

CHRIS: Was that an exciting thing, to be on a comp like that? Are you suprised to see people paying lots of money for it these days?

LEW: I have to say I had no idea that comp would be known like it is - at the time it was just a tape comp by Freddy. Not as surprised as I am to see \$250 Altercation demos on ebay though!

CHRIS: Oh yeah, Duane is definitely making a pretty penny off those old demos he's been selling.

LDNYC: Hell yeah. I'll pay for things I really want, so I guess it's not a big surprise.

CHRIS: Speaking of which... did you hang out at Some Records a lot?

LEW: Every day!

CHRIS: What was that like?

LDNYC: After senior year, I think, I literally went there every day after school, sitting around listening to music. It was the greatest. I met Chris Daily from Smorgasbord in there, that's how we talked about doing a record. Duane was a super cool guy who didn't care if you didn't have money to buy anything.

CHRIS: Was it all NYC area stuff or was he playing anything he got into the store?

LEW: It was other punk stuff too.

CHRIS: Who were some of the bands you were into that weren't from NYC at the time?

LEW: Well I was into AOD from Jersey, and of course our brothers in Up Front and Pressure Release. I was probably into mostly NY bands though...

CHRIS: I saw AOD a couple years ago and they were still as fast and tight as ever!

LEW: Really?

CHRIS: Oh yeah, they were great, they pretty much played straight through the first two lp's.

LEW: The first two albums are great!

CHRIS: Were you into any of the Boston bands of the era?

LEW: Wrecking Crew was pretty cool, I had Slapshot's "Back On The Map" but wasn't a huge fan.

CHRIS: I guess there weren't as many bands up here as there were in NYC at the time...

LEW: Yeah, Boston had already done its thing. I've heard the guy from SSD refer to YOT as just a ripoff. It's funny when people talk about YOT, some people saying they could take them or leave them. YOT were the scene back then in a lot of ways, no one really generated more excitement.

CHRIS: Were you a big YOT fan?

LEW: I remember hearing "Break Down The Walls" at Some before it came out and being blown away. I associate "Can't Close My Eyes" with discovering Some Records - that and Crippled Youth were my first two purchases.

IN ANGER

TRYING TO BE A FRIEND TO YOU

I DONT KNOW HOW IT GETS TO YOU

A FIERCENESS THAT

CORRODES YOUR STYLE

IN ANGER, YOU PUT ME ON TRIAL

WITH ME YOU START A FELLOW WAR

AND REJECT ALL THAT I FIGHT FOR

REJECTED, STIRRING YOU

TO THINK IN HATE

AND IN MY HEART,

THIS HEAVY WEIGHT

PUT OUT MY HAND TO TRY AND MEND

BUT YOU WONT SHAKE

ON BEING FRIENDS

REJECTED

CHRIS: When was that, around 86 or so?

LEW: Yeah. I actually saw YOT in 86 at the Ritz before I knew them. I thought to myself, who the fuck is this band, the singer is the craziest person alive! He was just jumping everywhere and SCREAMING, I hadn't seen anything like that live before. He was completely bald and seemed insane!

CHRIS: Was that the big show with Discharge?

LEW: Yeah.

CHRIS: Were you into them at all?

LEW: No, not Discharge. I think I was there for DRI and COC. The most memorable YOT performance was at CB's, the shutdown show. The last song, Youth Crew, was crazy... there were so many people on stage, and Ray spent the whole song being tossed around, being carried off but they just wouldn't let him down.

CHRIS: So the CB's staff had enough of that?

LEW: Yeah, they didn't want anybody on stage, no diving, you hear the bands warning the crowd even on 87 tapes I think. I mean I remember watching Sick Of It All and standing right near the stage with plenty of room. That didn't last long though.

CHRIS: Were you at that one show, Straight Ahead, where after their set the bouncer is talking about a gang of bums outside with baseball bats?

LEW: Yeah, I was at that, one of my first - with Warzone and Rest In Pieces. That part about the bums doesn't ring a bell to be honest... but above CB's was a sort of crack hotel.

CHRIS: What was the craziest thing you ever saw happen there?

LEW: Let me think... there were fights, of course, but nothing very crazy is jumping out. Seeing that long line around the block was the craziest for me. They make the kids line up behind a police barricade to get in the club... it used to be that the doors opened at 3pm, and everyone just crowded the door. It was annoying in its own way - waiting on a long line just seemed so wrong. I stopped going about then, 89.

CHRIS: So what was the deal with Our Gang and Smorgasbord? How come the record never came out?

LEW: We were rehearsing the songs, and we couldn't keep them tight from week to week, mostly because of our drummer, and that was very frustrating.

CHRIS: So it was the band's choice not to do the record?

LEW: Yeah, we just broke up.

CHRIS: But you recorded the songs first?

LEW: We did them live at Don Fury's to get an idea of how they'd sound, but that wasn't actually the record. We never did it, it was gonna be recorded on 8 track - big time for back then! Chris Daily was like, "Lew, just go in and record it", but I was probably being too critical. I wasn't going in until it was really tight. Chris was a great friend and would indulge me in my ideas for humongous lyric sheets and all kinds of stuff like that. I used to stay at his house and also stay with my good bro Jeff from Up Front.



OUR GANG

88 demo

CHRIS: So were people critical of the change in sound from the early demos?

LEW: A lot of people don't know us by that - we played those songs live a few times, but most people didn't hear it. I personally really like that stuff. I'm kind of glad it went the way it did. If we had stayed together we would have become more and more emo... the scene had died and, honestly, most of the bands did as well. It's not like we loved emo so much, but we were still learning to be better on our instruments and that seemed more important than staying really hard.

CHRIS: What was the deal with Crucial Response?

LEW: I think he wrote me about ten years ago to do a record, and we wrote back and forth a few times. But he wanted the fast stuff and not really the later stuff. I stopped writing back because I felt he was cutting out our most valid stuff. You have to understand, after more than 10 years of being away from this stuff, now I can go back and appreciate our fast, sloppy stuff. But at the time I just didn't think it was that important... I'd sold a lot of demos, the new stuff was the unreleased stuff.

CHRIS: Were you still into music after the band split?

LEW: I played in a band called Gutwrench, we had a 7" called "New Block On The Kids". That was more of a punk band - not as fast, more melodic. And then a band called Sleeper, me and Hobi were in that. They later became Serpico. The bands after Our Gang were technically more precise... as a bass player I needed a solid drummer. But Our Gang was the only band that had some real feeling behind it. The other bands were tight but not inspired. Unfortunately, that's very clear now that I'm distanced from all of them.

CHRIS: Are you into any current HC?

LEW: I really don't know any of it. I'd love to come upon a band who is doing something really exciting, different somehow... but I don't know if that is out there. A lot of bands seem content to name themselves after old songs. Growing up as a teen in the context of violent hardcore shows was a weird experience - why return to a world of violence and anger?

CHRIS: Do you still have all your old records and stuff?

LDNYC: I sold some stuff on ebay, but I kept whatever I wanted for myself, things that I didn't want to part with. I kept Can't Close My Eyes, the Some Records version... I got that version by accident. Straight Ahead stuff, the first four Rev releases... I still have my core collection I'd say. I sold stuff a while back that I don't miss - Project X, Judge, Chain Of Strength, No For An Answer.

CHRIS: Were you into those bands at the time?

LDNYC: Never was very big on judge really, but their single seemed killer at the time. I heard a preview of that before a Don Fury session... in his living room! Project X was fun but not a serious band. I didn't like NFAA, I did like COS and they were really incredible when they played NYC, they blew everyone away. I thought their first 7" was great.

CHRIS: Were you straight edge then?

LEW: Yeah. I refrained from drinking and drugs even before I discovered "Screaming For Change" so you can imagine how much I loved sxe when I found it... it fit me perfectly. Then I lost the edge in my early twenties. But I still have it in my heart and I'm not about bullshit - sxe becomes a strange matter for an adult. When you're young you're sxe, when you're older you're sober... so it is a kind of label, know what I mean?

CHRIS: Yeah, but there are people who will die for the title, you know?

LEW: Exactly. But a guy like Raybeez who did dust and gave it up really had the edge. His struggle is so much larger than the term "straight edge".

CHRIS: So when was the last time you went to a HC show?

LEW: Hmm, does punk count? I saw Snuff at Coney Island High about six years ago... shows are not for me anymore. I have to be excited by the band and not many bands excite me these days.

CHRIS: Does it surprise you to see kids asking about Our Gang on the internet?

HARD STYLE

UPRISING!!

LEW: Yes, it really does, in a huge way. Like I said, that New Breed tape, I had no idea... But it's also a great feeling because it's probably the most important piece of my life and i'm just glad it all happened naturally. By most important I mean most memorable, leaving the largest impression... but I miss playing music, it's good for my well-being.



Things started to wind down from here... random talk about work, school, Iron Maiden, and of course more Straight Ahead. Lew is thinking of doing a short run Our Gang 7" soon, so keep your eyes peeled. Contact him at LDNYC@aol.com for more info.

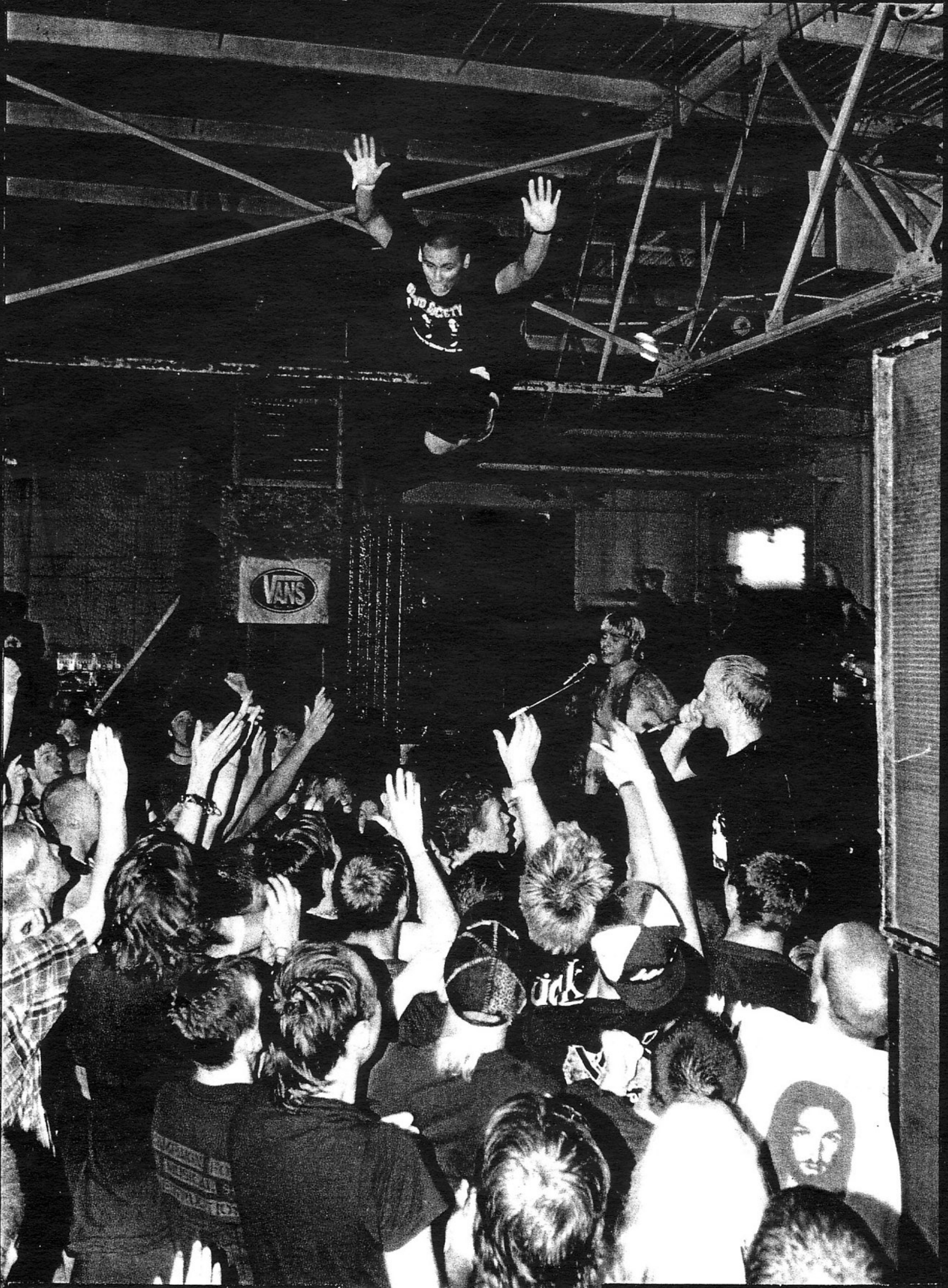


i wait all week for the one day i can relax
 get up and chase my troubles with an axe
 walk in the door feedback and fights
 i seek my refuge on friday nights

(TOKEN ENTRY)

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SUDDENDEATH SUDDENDEATH



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